

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 /029 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY UNA:BJSHARP  
APPROVED BY UNA:AFHOLLOWAY  
-----027957 131937Z /41  
O 131734Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY

FOL REPEAT LONDON 13486 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USIA USINFO  
PRETORIA LUSAKA DAR ES SALAAM DTD 12 AUG.

QUOTE

UNCLAS LONDON 13486

EEPT. FOR S/PRS - JOHN TRATTNER, AF/S; USIA FOR IPS,  
IEU, IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP ( VANCE, CYRUS R. )  
SUBJECT: SECVISIT: FOLLOWING TEXT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE  
HELD BY SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IN  
LONDON TODAY FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN  
FOREIGN SECRETARY BOTHA.

OWEN: WELL, WE'RE SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. THAT'S THE  
FIRST THING AND WE REALIZE IT'S BEEN A DAY AND I HOPE  
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF WE DON'T SAY A GREAT DEAL OF DETAIL  
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ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS. WE'VE HAD NEARLY 6 AND A HALF  
HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS AND ABOUT THEM I'D SAY THAT THEY'VE  
BEEN VERY SERIOUS, DETAILED DISCUSSIONS HELD IN AN OPEN  
ATMOSPHERE, SENSIBLE DISCUSSIONS OF A GROUP OF  
INDIVIDUALS ALL OF WHOM I THINK HAVE ONE PURPOSE WHICH  
IS TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT PEACE AND STABILITY IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THESE ARE PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS  
THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON NOW EVER SINCE THE ANGLO-U.S.  
INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED OVER THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF  
RHODESIA AND BRINGING ABOUT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE

AND THEY WILL CULMINATE FAIRLY SOON NOW IN OUR SPRING-  
ING FORWARD AS WE PROMISED WE WOULD OUR VIEWS AS THE  
WAY WE CAN ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND THERE  
ARE STILL FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OTHER PARTIES  
TO THE WHOLE OF THE PROBLEM WHICH NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN  
AND THE EXACT TIMING OF THESE AND THE EXACT WAY FORWARD  
WE WILL MAKE OUR DECISIONS ON THESE IN THE LIGHT OF THE  
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. WELL, I THINK THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD  
MEETING, VERY GOOD MEETING.

VANCE: YOU'VE DESCRIBED IT ADMIRABLY AND I THINK WE  
OUGHT TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE.

QUESTION: I HOPE YOU WON'T MISUNDERSTAND MY QUESTION  
BUT WHAT KEPT YOU?

OWEN: THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM. IT'S BEEN, IT GOES BACK  
IN HISTORY, SOME WOULD SAY 1926, SOME WOULD SAY EARLIER  
THAN THAT. THESE ARE DETAILED THINGS, AND THE FACT THAT  
WE TOOK A LONG TIME OVER IT IS A GOOD SIGN, NOT A BAD  
SIGN. I WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY EASY TO HAVE HAD A MEETING  
LASTING HALF AN HOUR. THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A GOOD  
SIGN. THIS WAS A MEETING GOING INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL  
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IN A SENSIBLE WAY OF TRYING TO REACH A SENSIBLE SOLU-  
TION TO THE PROBLEM SO I THINK THAT THE LENGTH OF TIME  
WAS AN INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS AND THE DEPTH OF  
THE DISCUSSION.

VANCE: THESE ARE A VERY, VERY COMPLEX ISSUE, AND A  
THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF SUCH ISSUES, IT IS BOUND TO TAKE  
TIME AND I QUITE AGREE WITH DAVID THAT IT IS, IT WAS  
A GOOD MEETING BECAUSE THERE WAS SUCH A FULL AND  
THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES.

QUESTION: IS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT STILL CO-  
OPERATING WITH THE EFFORT TO THE SAME EXTENT IT DID 6  
MONTHS AGO?

OWEN: WELL, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHEN I WENT  
OUT THERE AND DISCUSSED IT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE  
THIS WHOLE CONCEPT OF AN ANGLO-U.S. INITIATIVE IN APRIL  
A FAIR WIND AND THEY HAVE DONE SO THROUGHOUT. THEY'VE  
SAID THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS AND THIS IS A THING, BUT  
THEY HAVE BEEN READY TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH US.  
THEY POINTED OUT WHERE THEY THINK WE SHOULD FOCUS THE  
MAIN EMPHASIS OF THE DISCUSSION, BUT WE'VE KEPT THEM,  
THEY'VE BEEN AWARE OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DIS-  
CUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS. CY WOULD HAVE SAID THAT THIS  
IS PART OF A CONTINUUM WHICH THEY THAT STARTED WHEN WE  
FIRST LAUNCHED THE INITIATIVE. THEY'VE NEVER, THEY'VE

ALWAYS ADOPTED THE ATTITUDE THAT THIS IS WORTH DOING  
AND I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS TO  
HAVE A STABLE, DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY ON THEIR BORDERS AND

L THINK THAT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE IS SOMETHING WHICH  
THEY ACCEPT NOW AS BEING SOMETHING WHICH IS IN THEIR  
BEST INTERESTS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT IS IT THAT THE UNITED  
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STATES CAN DO ABOUT THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND  
SECONDLY, WHY IS THE UNITED STATES REALLY INVOLVED, IT  
DOESN'T HAVE ANY REAL VITAL INTERESTS IN RHODESIA?

VANCE: ANSWERING YOUR FIRST QUESTION, WHAT CAN WE DO  
ABOUT IT. I THINK WE CAN CONSTRUCTIVELY WORK WITH OUR  
BRITISH COLLEAGUES IN PREPARING PROPOSALS AND IMPLEMEN-  
TING THOSE PROPOSALS FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE  
RHODESIAN QUESTION. I THINK THAT WE HAVE MADE GOOD PRO-  
GRESS IN DEVELOPING THE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL  
BE MADE PUBLIC IN THE NOT DISTANT FUTURE. LET ME JUST  
CONTINUE, IF I MAY. YOU ASK WHY IS THE UNITED STATES  
INVOLVED? THE ISSUES INVOLVED HERE ARE ISSUES OF  
IMPORTANCE, NOT ONLY TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA OR  
ZIMBABWE THEMSELVES, BUT THEY ARE ISSUES WHICH ARE  
IMPORTANT TO THE PEACE OF THE WORLD AS WELL, AND THERE-  
FORE I THINK IT IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT THE UNITED  
STATES SHOULD BE WORKING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH OUR  
BRITISH ALLIES AND COLLEAGUES.

QUESTION: CAN YOU CLARIFY THE QUESTION OF PROGRESS,  
HAVE THE PROPOSALS NOW BEEN FINALIZED AND DO THEY HAVE  
A MEASURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ENDORSEMENT?

OWEN: WELL, I THINK THAT THE PROPOSALS WILL BE FINAL-  
IZED IN THE SENSE THE DAY THEY'RE PUBLISHED AND THERE  
ARE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND EXPLANATIONS WHICH WE WILL  
NEED TO GO THROUGH, SO TO THAT EXTENT I THINK THAT ONE  
MUST AWAIT THE PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSALS, AND AS TO  
THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTITUDE TO THIS, THIS  
IS SOMETHING FOR THEM TO EXPRESS, AND I THINK THEY WILL  
WANT TO SEE THE FINAL PROPOSALS THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY  
FORM A FINAL JUDGEMENT ON IT. WHAT YOU CAN SAY IS THAT  
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THEY HAVE A MUCH CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW  
AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD TO-  
DAY.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, WHEN YOU WERE IN WASHINGTON THESE

WERE DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE PROPOSALS OR A ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE SCHEME, WOULD THAT DESCRIPTION STILL HOLD AND REALLY WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE WASHINGTON, HOW HAVE YOU ADVANCED THIS BY GOING INTO MORE DETAIL OR HAVE YOU CHANGED THE CONCEPT IN ANY SENSE, THE APPROACH?

OWEN: I THINK THAT THE WASHINGTON MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS A CRUCIAL MEETING IN TERMS OF THE APPROACH AND WHAT ONE HAS BEEN DOING EVER SINCE THEN HAS BEEN, THAT WAS PART OF THE CONTINUUM OF THE DISCUSSIONS GONE ON ACTUALLY SINCE APRIL, BUT THAT WAS A TIME WHEN WE CAME WITH THE DEFINITE DECISION THAT THE TIME WAS NOW TO LAY DOWN PROPOSALS, AND SINCE WASHINGTON THERE HAVE BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES ABOUT ASPECTS OF DETAIL AND THERE HAVE BEEN FURTHER MEETINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE AS YOU KNOW AS PART OF THIS WHOLE PROCESS.

QUESTION: WAS THERE ANY SENSITIVITY ON YOUR PART OR ON THE AMERICAN PART IN CALLING THIS ONE MAN, CAN BOTH OF YOU GENTLEMEN SAY ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE IN PUBLIC?

OWEN: WE'VE BEEN SAYING THIS FOR SOME WEEKS, MONTHS NOW THAT THE FRANCHISE SHOULD BE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE TRANSITION PROBLEM? IF THIS IS ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT CERTAINLY, AS FAR AS MR. SMITH AND SALISBURY OBJECTED TO SOME OF THE PROPOSALS THAT WERE MADE, HAVE YOU ADVANCED IN THIS AREA?

OWEN: I REALLY DON'T THINK WE SHOULD GET INTO TOO MUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS. THE TIME FOR THAT WILL BE WHEN THEY ARE PUBLISHED AND THAT IS, YOU KNOW, SOMETHING WHICH IS WHEN WE'LL DEAL WITH IT.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF A TIME FRAME HOW SOON?

OWEN: I DON'T THINK I WANT TO BE DRAWN.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN ?

OWEN: I THINK YOU'LL DISCOVER WHEN WE PUBLISH IT WHEN WE ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION DATE. I MEAN THE BASIC THING WHICH WE'VE GOT TO DO IS CONDUCT A FEW MORE DISCUSSIONS. THERE ARE A LOT OF PARTIES THAT ARE INTERESTED IN THIS ISSUE - THE RHODESIAN ELECTIONS ARE ELECTIONS WHICH ARE BEING CALLED BY MR. SMITH WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH ANYONE, AND WILL INVOLVE 3 PERCENT OF THE ELECTOR-

ATE IN RHODESIA. THEY'RE AN ELEMENT, BUT THERE ARE OTHER ELEMENTS AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND OTHER LEADERS THAT ARE INVOLVED AND OTHER PEOPLE OF PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE WHICH NEED TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSED WITH.

QUESTION: WILL THESE SORT OF DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN SECRETARY, INVOLVE YOU GOING TO AFRICA AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

OWEN: I THINK THEY PROBABLY WILL, YES.

QUESTION: WILL YOU BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. YOUNG?

OWEN: NOT ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF ANY OF THIS, WHEN, HOW, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHO, WHERE, WHAT WE SEE, NONE OF THAT HAS BEEN FINALIZED YET.

QUESTION: SUPPOSE WE SPECULATE IT AS BEING BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH, WOULD THAT BE?

OWEN: YES, I THINK YOU'D NOT BE TOO FAR OFF OF MARK.

QUESTION: WILL YOU BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. YOUNG ON THIS VISIT?

OWEN: WE'VE NOT MADE ANY DECISIONS ABOUT THE STRUCTURE, THE FORM, WHEN WE GO OR ANYTHING AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME.

QUESTION: ON THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE ABOUT ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE, IS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REALLY ACTIVELY GOING TO TRY AND PRESS THIS ON THE SMITH REGIME?

OWEN: WELL, I THINK THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT YOU SHOULD ADDRESS TO THEM. I THINK YOU SHOULD NOT EXPECT THEM TO GIVE YOU SPECIFIC ANSWERS NOW, THEY WOULD WANT TO SEE THE FINAL PROPOSALS.

QUESTION: IF IT'S SO VAGUE, FOREIGN SECRETARY, ONE MIGHT SUGGEST WITH RESPECT AS THEY SAY TODAY'S MEETING HASN'T ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING AT ALL?

OWEN: WELL, THE ANGLO-U.S. INITIATIVE IS BEING WRITTEN OFF NOW OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND, I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR EVERYBODY TO ACCEPT AND WE WOULD LIKE TO TRY TO TAKE YOU INTO OUR CONFIDENCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND GIVE YOU AS MUCH INFORMATION, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO FACE IT THAT THESE ARE DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE CONTINUING AND THE DAY WE GO PUBLIC WILL BE THE DAY DECIDE TO PUBLISH THEM.

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QUESTION: DOES THE DEMAND FOR ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE APPLY TO SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS TO RHODESIA?

OWEN: WE'RE DEALING HERE WITH THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA AND THOUGH ALL OF THESE ISSUES HAVE SOME RELATIONSHIP TO THE WHOLE FRAMEWORK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND GO BOTH UP AND DOWN, THE ISSUE WHICH WE'RE DISCUSSING NOW IS THE QUESTION OF RHODESIA AND HOW WE GET MAJORITY RULE GOVERNMENT THERE.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, DID MR. BOTHA SUPPORT SOME OF THE PROPOSALS YOU'VE WORKED OUT, BECAUSE YOU'VE JUST INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT THEM UNTIL YOU SEE THE FINAL ONE. DOES THIS IMPLY THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS THE OTHER PLACES BEFORE THE FINAL PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSALS?

OWEN: WE'VE NOT FINALIZED ANY DEFINITE DECISIONS ON VISITS AS YET AND AS TO THE QUESTION OF MR. BOTHA'S ATTITUDE, YOU MUST ASK HIM.

QUESTION: WHY ISN'T HE HERE WITH YOU AND MR. VANCE?

OWEN: THERE'S NO PARTICULAR REASON. WE DECIDED THAT WE WOULD TALK ABOUT OUR OWN INITIATIVES AND HE WOULD TALK TO HIS PRESS AND TO ANY OTHER PEOPLE WHO WISH TO TALK TO HIM.

VANCE: DAVID, MIGHT I MAKE A COMMENT HERE. INsofar AS THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE PUT FORWARD, I THINK IT WOULD BE QUITE INAPPROPRIATE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO DISCUSS THEM UNTIL DAVID HAS HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS WITH EACH OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WOULD YOU CONSIDER IT A WORKING GROUP?

ANSWER: (LAUGHTER)

QUESTION: WILL YOU BE SEEING PRESIDENT NYERERE TOMORROW?

OWEN: YOU SEEM TO BE VERY KEEN TO GET IT ABSOLUTELY SPECIFIC - OF WHO EXACTLY I AM GOING TO SEE AND WHEN. I AM NOT GOING TO BE DRAWN TOO MUCH ON DETAIL OF WHO

I AM GOING TO SEE AND WHEN. ONCE I START ON THAT I'LL BE SCHEDULING A COMPLETE ITINERARY OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WILL YOU BE SEEING PRESIDENT NYERERE?

VANCE: YES, I WILL BE SEEING PRESIDENT NYERERE TOMORROW. IT'S EITHER GOING TO BE 10 OR 10.30, SOMETIME IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD, AT A TIME WHICH IS CONVENIENT TO HIM.

QUESTION: WHERE?

VANCE: I BELIEVE IT'S GOING TO BE AT THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL, WHICH I THINK IS AT HEATHROW.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING WHICH IS MORE THAN A DETAIL. IS THE CLOCK STILL RUNNING, IS THE DEADLINE THAT WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT STILL THE END OF 1978?

OWEN: THAT'S YOUR DEADLINE. THE CLOCK IS STILL RUNNING, UNCLASSIFIED

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I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO SEE IT, AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE MUCH EARLIER THAN THAT. CERTAINLY EARLIER THAN THE END OF 1978.

QUESTION: WHEN THE PLAN IS PUBLISHED, WILL IT BE DETAILED OR WILL OTHER DETAILS STILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED AFTER THE PLAN HAS BEEN PUBLISHED?

OWEN: IT WILL BE DETAILED.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT MR. SMITH IS SINCERE IN HIS COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS?

OWEN: I WISH I KNEW.

QUESTION: ARE YOU STILL WORKING ON THAT BASIS?

OWEN: I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT I CAN ONLY OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM THAT HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS, THERE IS SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHAT HE IS SAYING.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU HAD ANY EVIDENCE OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

OWEN: IF I HAD CONCRETE EVIDENCE I WOULD ANSWER THAT I KNEW WHAT HIS INTENTIONS WERE. I HOPE THAT HE HAS

ACCEPTED THE REALITY OF LIFE WHICH IS THAT THERE WILL  
HAVE TO BE A TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE AND THAT IS THE  
INTERESTS OF THE WHITE RHODESIANS AND THE BLACK  
RHODESIANS AND THAT THAT SHOULD BE BASED ON ONE-MAN-ONE-  
VOTE, IT SHOULD BE BASED ON FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS  
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AND THAT IT SHOULD BE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL LIVE UNDER A  
ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT WHO SHOULD DECIDE WHO THAT GOVERN-  
MENT SHOULD BE.

QUESTION: DR. OWEN, THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM OBVIOUSLY  
HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME. WHAT MAKES YOU CON-  
FIDENT THAT YOU THINK THERE CAN BE AN INDEPENDENT  
ZIMBABWE BEFORE THE END OF 1978?

OWEN: I SAID I HOPE.

QUESTION: YES, BUT WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THESE PRO-  
POSALS WILL SUCCEED WHERE SOMEBODY WHO WALKED THAT PATH  
BEFORE, ETC.?

OWEN: I'VE NEVER BEEN EXACTLY AN OPTIMIST ABOUT ANY OF  
THESE PROPOSALS, BUT I THINK AS YOU GET CLOSER AND AS  
MORE AND MORE PEOPLE SEE THE NECESSITY OF RESOLVING  
THIS CONFLICT THEN ANYONE'S HOPES ARE THAT THE SANITY  
OF ENDING THIS IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THAT THAT IS  
THE ONLY WAY THAT IS GOING TO SERVE THE OBJECTIVES OF  
ALMOST ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED. ONE JUST HOPES THAT  
THEY WILL SEE THIS. THAT IT IS A SENSELESS CONFLICT  
GOING ON THERE WHERE PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE BEING LOST AND  
THAT IN THE LAST ANALYSIS WE CAN ONLY HOPE.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THE PATRIOTIC  
FRONT WILL, IS AMENABLE TO A TYPE OF NEGOTIATED SETTLE-  
MENT THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

OWEN: YES.

QUESTION: THEY STILL ARE INTERESTED IN NOT WINNING BY  
FORCE?

OWEN: I BELIEVE THAT THEY DO ACCEPT THAT THERE MUST BE  
ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE FUTURE GOVERNMENTS OF ZIMBABWE, YES.  
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QUESTION: CAN I ASK BOTH OF YOU HOW MUCH PRESSURE ARE  
YOU EACH WILLING TO PUT ON SOUTH AFRICA TO IN TURN PUT  
PRESSURE ON RHODESIA TO GO ALONG?

VANCE: I THINK THE ANSWER TO THAT SHOULD BE THAT WE



SHOULD AWAIT SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE TO THE COMPLETE PROPOSALS AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO THOSE PROPOSALS.

OWEN: I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT WE WANT, A CONSIDERED CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE, BUT I THINK THAT ONE OUGHT TO NOT TO EXPECT FIRST A RESPONSE UNTIL THEY SEE THE FINAL PROPOSALS AND EVEN THEN I THINK THEY ARE GOING TO WANT TO LOOK AT THIS. THIS WILL BE A DETAILED PACKAGE WHICH WE BELIEVE WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT IT, FAIR MINDED PEOPLE LOOK AT IT WILL SEE IT AS AN HONEST ATTEMPT TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THIS VERY GREAT PROBLEM. I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET VERY MUCH FURTHER.

QUESTION: IS IT FAIR TO SAY THAT YOUR DISCUSSION TODAY WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO EXPLAINING THESE COMPLEX DETAILS RATHER THAN RECEIVING FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS A JUDGEMENT ON THEM PIECE BY PIECE?

VANCE: WE DID DISCUSS AT LENGTH THE OUTLINE AND GENERAL SUBSTANCE OF A NUMBER OF THE IDEAS WHICH WE HAVE IN CONNECTION WITH THESE PROPOSALS AND WE DID EXPLAIN THEM AT LENGTH AND ANSWERED A LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO WHAT THEY INVOLVED AND HOW THEY WOULD OPERATE. I THINK THAT'S FAIR TO DESCRIBE IT, DON'T YOU.

OWEN: ABSOLUTELY.  
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QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DID YOU GET AN INTERIM RESPONSE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS TODAY ON THE PROPOSALS YOU PRESENTED?

VANCE: FIRST LET ME SAY, I DON'T THINK WE OUGHT TO SPEAK FOR THE SOUTH AFRICANS, THE SOUTH AFRICANS CAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ON THIS. SECONDLY I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO ASK FOR AN INTERIM RESPONSE TODAY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE ALL OF THE MATTERS NECESSARY TO ASK FOR AN ANSWER.

QUESTION: BUT DID THEY GIVE YOU AN INTERIM RESPONSE IN ANY CASE?

VANCE: I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYMORE. ASK THEM.

QUESTION: DID THEY IN ANY WAY HELP SHAPE WHAT'S GOING ON, I HATE THE WORD INPUT, BUT WAS THERE AN SOUTH AFRICAN INPUT OR WERE THEY KIND OF SITTING IN THE BLEACHERS WATCHING YOU WORK?

OWEN: IN THE BLEACHERS, I AM NOT SURE WE WERE IN THE BLEACHERS, WE WERE -

QUESTION: NO, THEY, NOT YOU -

OWEN: I DON'T THINK THEY WERE, WE WERE BOTH OF US IN THE STADIUM, WE WERE GRAPPLING WITH THE PROBLEM. I THINK THAT'S THE WAY I WOULD PUT IT. THIS WAS A SERIOUS WORKING MEETING DEALING WITH THE COMPLEXITIES AND THE DETAIL OF A PACKAGE WHICH WE ALL KNOW WILL NEVER SATISFY EVERY SINGLE ELEMENT. THERE IS NO WAY GIVEN ALL THE CONFLICTING VIEWS THAT ARE HELD BY THE VARIOUS DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN THIS THAT ALL PARTS OF A PACKAGE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. THERE'S NO WAY THAT THAT WILL BE. WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS THAT SEEM TO BE FAIR AND  
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HONORABLE AND OFFERING A WAY FORWARD TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THAT'S BEEN OUR OBJECTIVE.

VANCE: I WOULD ONLY ADD THAT WE SOUGHT THEIR VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO ASPECTS OF THE PACKAGE AS WE OUTLINED IT TO THEM AND WHERE THEY FELT IT APPROPRIATE TO RESPOND THEY DID SO.

QUESTION: MR. VANCE, YOU MENTIONED, YOU USED THE PHRASE "SOUGHT THEIR VIEWS". DOES THAT MEAN THAT IT WAS YOUR FEELING AND DR. OWEN'S TO INVITE THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO COME AND PARTICIPATE, IN OTHER WORDS THE INITIATIVE CAME FROM THE TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE HERE?

VANCE: INDEED. ALL OF US HAVE A COMMON OBJECTIVE, AND THE COMMON OBJECTIVE, AS DAVID HAS SAID, IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, AND WE INVITED THEM TO COME AND DISCUSS WITH US OUR THOUGHTS AS THEY CURRENTLY STAND WITH RESPECT TO THESE MATTERS, SO THAT WE COULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR THINKING, AND COULD CONVEY OUR VIEWS.

QUESTION: THANK YOU.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 13-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE192518  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** UNA:BJSHARP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770293-0044  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197708117/baaaetnf.tel  
**Line Count:** 535  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 9de75751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN IO  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 10  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1445749  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECVISIT: FOLLOWING TEXT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IN LONDON TODAY FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY BOTHA.  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** PORT AU PRINCE USUN N Y  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9de75751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009